

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Withdrawn) A method comprising the steps of:

placing an open box structure over freight, which sits on a pallet;

wherein the open box structure has a first side;

and wherein a first end of a first strap is attached to the first side; and

further comprising attaching a second end of the first strap to a second side of the open box structure, wherein the second side of the open box structure is opposite the first side.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 wherein

a first end of the second strap is attached to the first side of the open box structure; and

further comprising attaching a second end of the second strap to the second side of the open box structure.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8 further comprising

locking the second end of the first strap to the second side of the open box structure.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 9 further comprising

locking the second end of the first strap to the second side of the open box structure; and

locking the second end of the second strap to the second side of the open box structure.

12. (Currently Amended) A flexible freight cover for covering and securing freight placed on a pallet, the cover comprising:

a top portion and first, second, third and fourth sidewalls made from a flexible, water proof material, the first, second, third and fourth sidewalls being joined at their upper ends to the top portion and joined at their respective sides to an adjacent sidewall so that the top portion and sidewalls together form a box-shaped structure with an open bottom which is sized to fit over and cover the freight on the pallet; and

at least one elongate flexible strap having a first end attached to the first sidewall and a second end adapted to be fastened to the second sidewall opposite the first sidewall, the strap having a length sufficient to permit the strap to be engaged with the pallet and pulled across the open bottom of the cover and then fastened to the second sidewall to secure the freight to the pallet, the second end of the elongate strap having at least one ringed opening therethrough, and the second sidewall having an opening therethrough, and wherein the cover further includes an attachment device having a ring, with the ring being inserted into the ringed opening in the second end of the elongate strap and into the opening in the second sidewall and locked to fasten the second end of the elongate strap to the second sidewall.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The flexible freight cover according to claim ~~13~~12, wherein the second end of the elongate strap has a plurality of spaced apart ringed openings therethrough, and the ring of the attachment device can be inserted into one of the plurality of spaced apart openings and into the opening in the second sidewall to secure the freight to the pallet.

15. (Currently Amended) The flexible freight cover according to claim ~~13~~12 wherein the cover is provided with a second elongate strap having a first end attached to the first sidewall and spaced apart from the first elongate strap, the second elongate strap having a second end adapted to be fastened to the second sidewall, the second elongate strap having a length sufficient to permit the strap to be engaged with the pallet and pulled across the open bottom of the cover and then fastened to the second sidewall to secure the freight to the pallet.

16. (Previously Presented) The flexible freight cover according to claim 15 wherein the second end of the second elongate strap has at least one ringed opening therethrough, and the second sidewall has a second opening therethrough, and wherein the cover further includes a second attachment device having a ring that is inserted into the ringed opening in the second end of the second elongate strap and into the second opening in the second sidewall and locked to fasten the second end of the second strap to the second sidewall.

17. (Previously Presented) The flexible freight cover according to claim 16, wherein the second end of the second elongate strap has a plurality of spaced apart ringed openings therethrough, and the ring of the second attachment device can be inserted into one of the plurality of spaced apart ringed openings in the second end of the second elongate strap and into the second opening in the second sidewall to secure the freight to the pallet.